GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1491
ANSWERED ON:29.10.2008
INDIANS MISSING IN GULF REGION DUE TO CYCLONE
Surendran Shri Chengara

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of Indians have gone missing in the Gulf countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the missing persons have been recovered/identified/repatriated to India;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED)

(a) According to official figures released by the Omani authorities, seven Indians lost their lives and five are still missing in the cyclonic storm that lashed the coastal areas of Sultanate of Oman on June 5-6, 2007.Apart from this,four Indian crew members of Ship MV Dubai Trans which capsized on June 6, 2007 off Ras Al Hadd in the Gulf of Oman are also missing.

In Kuwait,one case of death due to cyclone in the territorial waters of Kuwait on February 25,2008 came to the notice of the Mission.A boat carrying Mr. Ramhujur Singh was capsized.His mortal remains were sent to India.

(b),(c)&(d) The details of dead and missing Indian nationals are given in the enclosed Annexure. The search for Indian nationals reported missing in the cyclone in Oman is still continuing.

As regards Saudi Arabia,so far during the year 2008,72 cases of apparently missing Indian nationals have been reported in the Indian Missions.The number denotes cases where Mission/Post have received requests from family members in India for information on whereabouts and well-being of their relatives working in Saudi Arabia.

In the case of UAE,during the year 2007, 18 Indian nationals were reported missing respectively, out of which 11 persons were traced and repatriated to India. During 2008, one Indian national was reported missing.More information has been sought from the families of the missing persons to enable the local authorities to trace them.

(e) Government of India,through its Missions in Gulf countries, is in regular touch with the local authorities in this regard.If any credible information is received,it will immediately be shared with the next of kin.Whenever an Indian is reported missing,our Missions abroad try to trace him/her through the local authorities on the basis of details furnished by the family members,sponsors.